



Glacier National Park Educational Opportunities 2017-2018



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Glacier National Park



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Glacier National Park
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West Glacier, MT 59936

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2017-18 Glacier Educational Opportunities

This handout describes the park's field trip options, educational trunk materials, and partner education options for the coming school year. Ranger/NPS Staff-led field trips are offered on both the east and west sides of the park at no cost (see the map for field trip locations). A fee waiver will be processed by the park's Education Specialist to cover the entrance fees. These programs must be reserved in advance and fill quickly. Reservations are done on-line, starting at 8:00 a.m. August 21, 2017. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/index.htm> to find additional information about field trips, the online reservation form, and pre- and post-visit lesson plans.

Travel Grants

For schools with restricted travel budgets, there are travel grants available thanks to donations to the Glacier National Park Conservancy. The grants are available to schools who are participating in any Glacier staff-led field trip. Grants are awarded first-come, first-served in amounts varying on the distance the bus has to travel to the park. To apply for a travel grant, complete and submit the travel grant form on our website at <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travel-grants.htm>

Self-Guided Trips

We realize that these programs may not fit your needs and that you may want to bring a group on your own. Information about self-guided field trips and fee waiver applications are on our website: <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/selfguided.htm>



Field Trips

PROGRAM	GRADE LEVELS	WEST SIDE	EAST SIDE	PROGRAM DETAILS
Sensory Exploration	Grade K	Apgar Spring	St. Mary Spring	These programs use the habitats found in Glacier National Park to teach young students about plants, animals, and preservation. Hikes are less than one mile and are combined with other hands-on learning activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Kindergarten students learn about the importance of senses. (This is half-day with a ranger, and half-day with teacher-led activities.)First graders learn about which animals live in Glacier.Second graders learn about where animals live in Glacier.
Wild Animals, Wild Places	Grade 1	Apgar Fall and Spring	St. Mary Spring	
Exploring Habitats	Grade 2	Apgar Fall and Spring	St. Mary Spring	
Forest Processes	Grades 3-4	Trail of the Cedars (Avalanche Area) Fall and Spring	St. Mary, Two Medicine Fall	Students hike one to two miles with a ranger to learn about forest processes and the importance of native plants. They then use that knowledge to create their own miniature national parks.
Fire Ecology	Grades 4-5	Fish Creek Spring	St. Mary Spring	Rangers guide students through activities that teach the history of fire in Glacier and its role as a natural process while hiking two to three miles.
Earth Science	Grades 5-9	Avalanche Fall and Spring	St. Mary, Many Glacier Fall	Students hike at least four miles to explore geology in the park. The length of these hikes and level of information is geared toward secondary students. An extended field day is recommended.
Fire and Succession	Grades 6-8	Apgar Fall	St. Mary Spring	In this program, students learn about fire and succession by gathering and analyzing data on species composition and density in two different forests.
Plant Invaders	Grades 6-12	Apgar Fall	St. Mary, Coming Soon! Fall of 2019	Students become "Citizen Scientists." They hike less than two miles to permanently established research plots to collect data on the percent cover of native plants and non-native, invasive plants.
Native Plant Restoration	Grades 6-12	Location TBA Fall and Spring	Location TBA Fall and Spring	This program educates students about human impacts to native plant communities and promotes increased stewardship of Glacier National Park, while giving them the opportunity to get their hands dirty.
Winter Ecology	All Grades	Apgar January-March 2018	St. Mary January-March 2018	Depending on the age of the group and the area visited, students explore a variety of winter-related topics. Winter ecology programs include snowshoe hikes. (Snowshoes are provided free of charge.)

Scheduling a Field Trip

Requests for field trips must be submitted on-line through the park's website. Reservations will be accepted starting August 21, 2017 for the entire 2017-2018 school year. Program availability is first-come, first-served. Go to our website and complete the program reservation form at <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/rangerguided.htm> for the program you are interested in. Be prepared to select the program and date you want, with 2nd and 3rd choice options, and to provide your contact information.

You will see that group size is generally limited to 60 students but may be even fewer on days when ranger staffing, facilities or equipment are limited (45 students for snowshoeing). The number of chaperones will be determined by the age of the students and the program selected. Objectives for each field trip, vocabulary and more information are also available on our website at <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/rangerguided.htm>.

Contact: Glacier Education Specialist, 406-888-5837, or glac_education@nps.gov.

Typical Field Trip Schedule

No two school programs are exactly alike, but the following represents a typical schedule. If your school is closer to the park, or has earlier or later dismissal times, this schedule can be adjusted. Make sure to consider adequate travel time (especially if there is inclement weather) for your park visit.

- 9:30-10:00 am** Bus arrives
- 10:00-10:30 am** Park introduction & National Park Service Mission
- 10:30-11:30 am** Session 1 of park-led activities
- 11:30-12:00 pm** Lunch and clean-up
- 12:00-1:00 pm** Session 2 of park-led activities
- 1:00-1:30 pm** Concluding activity and final assessment
- 1:30-1:45 pm** Bus departs

Other Educational Opportunities

Educational Trunks

Ten engaging educational trunks are available for educators to borrow at no charge, for a month at a time. The trunks must be picked-up from, and returned to, West Glacier, MT. Information about the trunks and their contents can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/education/travelingtrunks.htm>.

- [Bear Trunk \(Grades K-12\)](#)
- [Climate Change Trunk \(Grades 6-12\)](#)
- [FireWorks Trunk \(Grades 3-12\)](#)
- [Land of Many Stories \(Grade 4\)](#)
- [Plant Invaders \(Grades 3-12\)](#)
- [Repeat Photo Trunk \(Grades 6-12\)](#)
- [Skulls Kit \(Grades 3-12\)](#)
- [Songbird Kit \(Grades 4-6\)](#)
- [Traditional Native Games \(Grades K-10\)](#)
- [Wolf Trunk \(Grades K-12\)](#)

Distance Learning

Thanks to funding from the Glacier National Park Conservancy, we will be piloting three 45-minute distance learning programs this year. If you are interested in setting up a program for November-December 2017, contact glac_education@nps.gov.

- Ask a Ranger (elementary students)
- Bears in Glacier (elementary students)
- Disappearing Glaciers (secondary students)

Concessions

Tour companies that operate in the park occasionally offer reduced rates for school groups. Call each company for updated information and pricing:

- Glacier Park Boat Company, 406-257-2426
- Sun Tours, 1-800-786-9220 or 406-226-9220
- Red Bus Tours, 855-733-4522

Glacier Institute

The Glacier Institute is a nonprofit organization providing quality outdoor education to people of all ages through exceptional field and science-based learning experiences. The Institute offers many courses that provide Montana Office of Public Instruction renewal units for professional development. The Big Creek Outdoor Education Center in Flathead National Forest is staffed by experienced naturalists and offers overnight accommodations to school groups participating in the Institute's Discovery School courses. Please contact the Glacier Institute Office at 406-755-1211 or visit their website at <http://www.glacierinstitute.org>.

